

the wooden roller from his bed and in a calm voice told the gathering outside his door that he knew that the door was flimsy and that they could break in but that he would kill the first one who came in. There were no volunteers to be first. The next morning, upon leaving the hotel, a mob with ropes surrounded him. He felt his time to die had come and asked to speak a few last words.

I had one little wish to impress upon their minds, and that was that some of them had to die in the operation and I did not wish to kill any man that had a drop of honest blood in him; if there were any such men I begged them to withdraw and let the worst hounds they had remain to do the deed, as I should certainly kill three or four.<sup>18</sup>

The members of the mob suddenly felt very honest and withdrew.

William Wall was appointed Marshall of Provo and Utah County Sheriff shortly after his return, and because of the presence of the United States Army under General Johnston and the resultant friction between Mormons and anti-Mormons his time in office was seldom dull. Illustrative of this is the casual reference in the *Deseret News* of January 6, 1859, that last Friday evening when W. M. Wall, Marshall of Provo, was walking through the streets of that city a ball was shot through his hat and grazed his head and knocked him down.

He had many experiences dealing with the Indians which later proved invaluable to the people of Wasatch County. His ranch in the mouth of Provo Canyon was among the first settlements in the Provo Valley. He served as the first presiding elder of the valley and was

<sup>18</sup>*Ibid.*

later called upon when the people experienced the Indian troubles.

The success that the people had in dealing with the Indians was in no small measure due to the courage of leaders like William M. Wall.

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